

Forest villages

469. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of forest villages in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Planning Commission had allocated funds for development of forest villages during the financial year 2006-07;
- (c) if so, the proposals received, so far, from the States and projects approved and funds provided therefor, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to protect the rights of tribals in forests and forest villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO. NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information received from the State Governments, the state-wise details of forest villages in the country, is given in Annexure.

(b) and (c) Government of India has allocated Rs. 220 crores for the year 2006-07, for the development of forest villages under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The information provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, regarding details of projects approved and funds provided for, State-wise, is given in the Statement. (See below).

(d) The National Forest Policy 1988 envisages a symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests, a primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management. The aim is to associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. In this respect the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme Scheme through a two-tier decentralized set up of Forest Development Agency at the district level and Joint Forest Management Committee at the village level. The programme aims at rehabilitation of degraded forests and augment the livelihood Support Systems of the forest fringe villagers including the tribals.

The Government has recently enacted "The Scheduled Tribes and Other

Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" to protect the rights of tribal living in and around forests areas.

Statement

State-wise details of projects approved and funds provided for development of forest villages

Sl. No.	State	No. of Forest Villages	No. of villages for which projects approved during 2006-07	Funds Released during 2006-07 (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	499	—	366.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	425	61	2338.67
3.	Gujarat	199	—	663.00
4.	Jharkhand	24	—	129.70
5.	Maharashtra	—	—	0.00
6.	Meghalaya	23	23	390.71
7.	Madhya Pradesh	893	143	6372.56
8.	Mizoram	85	58	1072.50
9.	Orissa	20	—	133.46
10.	Tripura	62	62	930.00
11.	Uttarakhand	61	—	0.00
		habitation		
12.	Uttar Pradesh	13	—	0.00
13.	West Bengal	170	—	699.00
	TOTAL:	2474	347	13095.60